

BULLETIN

of the
MAHONING COUNTY
MEDICAL SOCIETY

Volume LIII

JUNE, 1983

Number 5



Compare the quality of professional liability coverage ...not just price



Quality Checklist For Medical Professional Liability Insurance

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6. Contractual profit sharing agreement	YES	_____
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8. Legal defense services provided only by specialists in defendant medical professional liability insurance suits	YES	_____
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11. Premiums to surplus ratio of less than 2-1	YES	_____
12. "Clean" opinion from auditors	YES	_____
13. Steady growth in surplus, claims reserves, and operating profits	YES	_____
14. Physician decisions on claims and underwriting matters	YES	_____
15. Official endorsement by the OSMA	YES	_____

When you're asked to compare the price of your medical professional liability insurance coverage, we suggest that you also compare quality. When your claim arises, now or several years in the future, the quality of your coverage, claims services, and the company standing behind you is what really matters.



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1983 - MAHONING COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETINGS - 1983

Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
Jan. 18	Mar. 15	May 17	Sept. 20	Nov. 15	Dec. 20

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From the Desk of the President



It has been said that behind every successful man is a loving, supportive woman who gives him the emotional and spiritual boost needed to face the many confrontations, problems, dilemmas, hostilities and setbacks the professional world presents each day. A good wife must be a lady, a lover, a financial wizard, a taxicab driver and a cheerleader but, most important, she must be a companion, confidant and friend.

In the modern world, accomplishing such a task is difficult and often impossible. There is much pressure today upon women to achieve fulfillment by the pursuit of meaningful careers and self development. The double role of career woman and spouse can easily be compromised. Although the career of housewife seems less glamorous and less personally rewarding than other careers, it is certainly the cornerstone of a happy, healthy family. When viewed in its entirety, the career of wife and mother can be an immensely fulfilling and rewarding one.

Medical wives such as those members of our Mahoning County Medical Society — our faithful partners and friends — are a busy and altruistic group. During this past year, in addition to the love and support they gave their families, they found time to raise \$4,600 for Hospice of Youngstown, \$4,000 for AMA-ERF, and an estimated \$2,000 was given to the Association for Children With Learning Disabilities. They raised this money with a variety of innovative projects and their own hard work. They helped host the International Peace Race. They conducted programs for the enrichment of the lives of the residents of the County Nursing Home, and have sponsored a "heartsaver" CPR course. Whew! Huzzah!! Bravo!!

These lovely ladies indeed deserve our heartfelt thanks. We are fortunate to have such wonderful and able good-will ambassadors!

Doctor, have you hugged your wife today?

P. J. Mahar, Jr., M.D.



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of the Mahoning County Medical Society

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Number 5

The opinions and conclusions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial staff nor the official views of the Mahoning County Medical Society.

EDITOR

R. W. Juvancic, M.D.

EDITOR EMERITUS

James L. Fisher, M.D.

MANAGING EDITOR

Robert B. Blake

EDITORIAL STAFF

Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

John C. Melnick, M.D.

James A. Lambert, M.D.

Jack Schreiber, M.D.

Editorial

THE HUMAN ANIMAL

Are researchers and epidemiologists going too far? Or are we reading into statistical material conclusions which are drawn upon incomplete data or skewed interpretation of same?

Have we often become so scientifically-oriented that we are unable to communicate effectively with our patients?

A popular belief suggests a drowning man will grasp at any straw in an effort to save his life. Do we, as well as a trusting public, sometimes accept intriguing concepts just because they happen to pique our interest at the time? Contrariwise, do we refuse to accept valid presentations because they do not agree with our fixed ideas?

Harm may come from too hastily accepted incomplete data just as procrastination can deter acceptance of reasonable studies.

I remember all the research on cholesterol in medical school and the length of time before it was an accepted concept in management of cardiovascular problems. Validity of this concept has waxed and waned. Currently, it is being questioned again.

The publish or perish philosophy of the big medical centers has intended to keep the scientific approach vibrant. But much of this material is unacceptable and sometimes one wonders if it wasn't deliberately adjusted to make someone look good. Some publications will accept any article without subjecting it to close scrutiny. Unfortunately, physicians and public too often accept any printed communication with little question.

Are people working under fluorescent lights really at risk of developing melanoma?

Our patients often become aware of these concepts before we do. All too often their questions are brushed aside as though they were ignorant while we attempt to cover our own ignorance or inadequacy. Most patients will not think less of us if we can admit we do not know. They will realize we are human. And they will appreciate our concern and openness..

And that's what really counts!

Richard W. Juvancic, M.D.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

April 12, 1983

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held Tuesday, April 12, 1983 at Youngstown Country Club.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Paul J. Mahar Jr. at 6:45 p.m. and some of the agenda considered while waiting for the entree to be served.

The minutes of the previous Council meeting, having been read, were approved.

The bills list was read and a motion made, seconded and passed to pay each bill.

The Treasurer's report noted that all dues collected for Ohio State Medical Association and American Medical Association have been duly transmitted to the proper office. It was reported there are 15 members who have not paid 1983 dues as of the date of the Council meeting and there were 14 members with unpaid dues at the same time in 1982. The total amount of dues collections for the Society was listed.

The following applications were presented by the Censors:

ASSOCIATE: Alfred C. Neptune, M.D.

ACTIVE: Chester A. Amedia, Jr., M.D.

Ernesto V. Angtuaco, M.D.

Joseph A. Colella, M.D.

Jerome C. Hightower, M.D.

William B. Rich, D.O.

Adon S. Weinberg, D.O.

The applications were approved. The applicants will become members of the Mahoning County Medical Society in the voted category 15 days after publication of the names in the *Bulletin* unless objection is filed in writing with the executive director before that time.

A letter was read from Blue Cross/Blue Shield requesting the Society to take a stand regarding a Congressional "tax cap" proposal that would require employees to pay income tax on some health insurance premiums that are paid by the employer. After considerable discussion, the Council decided not to take a stand.

A thank you letter was read from Dr. William H. Bunn, vice president of Medical Affairs at YHA, in response to the presentation of the Society of two composite Society photos to the hospitals. The executive director was instructed to send a letter to Dr. Bunn asking that the "old" composite be returned to the physician's lounge and displayed, along with the new composite.

A copy of a letter by Dr. Robert R. Fisher to the administration of St. Elizabeth Hospital regarding mandated insurance verification was discussed by the members of Council. No action was taken.

A letter from Health & Human Services regarding the approval of the East Side Medical Center's request for assignment of a GP, and a letter from the Knights of Columbus regarding a request for funds were read and no action taken.

The Scholarship Committee reported all in readiness for the April 14th dinner and award presentations. Dr. John C. Melnick was announced as the speaker, with the topic "The Green Cathedral" about Mill Creek Park.

The Committee for the Medically Indigent reported the Society's program of assistance was put into effect on Monday, April 11 and requests are being screened by the Society office personnel.

The Canfield Fair Committee announced its annual exhibitor's luncheon on April 28 at the Youngstown Maennerchor Club and invited all members to attend.

In his report to Council, Dr. Anderson, Sixth District Councilor, OSMA, stated a special meeting was held of the OSMA Council in Toledo to discuss the adverse conditions that resulted from Dr. Ford's action on the Celeste budget. The Councilor noted the approval of the budget was taken under advisement and deemed the proper thing to do, under the circumstances. Dr. Ford is attending each district caucus to further explain the action, according to Dr. Anderson's report. The Councilor reported a special meeting is being held in Stark County by that Society to honor Dr. Joel Davis, longtime district delegate, who has retired from his delegate's post.

A motion was made, seconded and passed that "The policy of the Mahoning County Medical Society is to abide by the rulings of the Ohio State Medical Board in regard to the physicians' use of the M.D. or D.O. degree."

A motion was made, seconded and passed to address envelopes for a fund-raising mailing for Butler Institute of American Art and to mail a solicitation letter to request donations to the Mahoning County Medical Society Foundation that makes loans to medical students, and to consider all requests for envelope addressing on an individual basis.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the sending of a letter to area nursing homes regarding retention of their personal physician by patients in the homes.

* * * * *

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNCIL

May 10, 1983

The regular meeting of the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society was held Tuesday, May 10, 1983 at the Youngstown Club.

The meeting was called to order by president Paul J. Mahar, Jr. at 7:10 p.m. The minutes of the April 12 meeting, having been read, were approved.

The treasurer reported an increase in dues receipts this year in comparison with the same time as last year and an increase in other income for this year in comparison with last year, at the same time.

The bills list was read and a motion made, seconded and passed to pay each bill.

The president took note of the announcement that Dr. A. A. Detesco is being honored as Man of the Year by the Italian Scholarship League. The president stated a congratulatory letter from the Society will be sent to Dr. Detesco.

Communications from area Nursing Homes in response to a letter from the Society were read. The letter from the Society suggested personal physicians be retained by nursing home patients and the responses concurred with the suggestion.

Thank you notes were read from three students who attended the April 14 Scholarship Dinner. It was reported that every student invited was in attendance at the dinner and eight host couples also were present to assist in making the students welcome.

Other communications included: A letter from AMA regarding JCAH Standards revisions update; a letter of appreciation from the Americanism Foundation; notice that the Voluntary Health Planning Agency (formerly HSA) is no longer funded and is inoperative; a listing of the new rates for hospitalization for the physicians' group.

Dr. Anderson, Sixth District Councilor, gave a brief introduction to what is expected at the House of Delegates meeting in Columbus May 13-15 and informed the Council that Dr. Ford, OSMA president, is in the hospital and will not preside at the House of Delegates meeting.

A report by the Committee for the Medically Indigent noted that referrals are being made under the Society's program but there have been a minimal

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number of referrals because the physicians are taking care of their own patients regardless of their ability to pay. Dr. Jacobson is chairman.

A report by the Canfield Fair Committee noted the annual exhibitor luncheon was held April 28 and all the last year exhibitors wish to take part in the program again this year. Dr. Jack Schreiber is committee chairman.

A report on the request for Foundation contributions was presented and a motion made that the request be sent out quarterly as a reminder that the Foundation can always use added funds. The motion was made, seconded and passed.

In response to a request that the "old" composite photo of the Society members be re-hung in the physicians' lounge, it was reported some remodeling going on and there would be a determination of space available for the photo.

It was noted that Dr. Robert Wiltsie is under consideration for the post of director of the Ohio Department of Health and all members were urged to send letters of recommendation to Governor Celeste.

A request by the executive director to attend meetings in July and August was approved by the Council.

The Council was informed that 16" by 20" copies of the composite photo of the members of the Society are available at \$48 each but there must be at least six ordered from the photo company. It was suggested a notice be put in the *Bulletin* concerning the availability of the photo.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Robert B. Blake
Executive Director

SPECIAL HONOR FOR DR. A. A. DETESCO

Dr. Andrew A. Detesco, former president of the Mahoning County Medical Society and recipient of the Society's Doctor of the Year Award in 1981, will be honored as "Man of the Year" by the Italian Scholarship League of Youngstown at its annual banquet August 1 at Fonderlac Country Club. The banquet will be a part of a fund-raising event and golf outing.

COMPOSITE PHOTO IS AVAILABLE

A special 20" by 16" composite photo of the members of the Society (with a few exceptions) is available for \$48.00 per copy, framed and ready to hang in your office or waiting room.

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the photo, a copy of which is in the physicians' lounge in the hospitals, should contact the Society office at 747-4956. Allow about six weeks for delivery, after placing your order. Orders should be placed before July 10th, if possible.

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OLD TIMER DECLARES

When a small town has no doctors, the situation is bad. When a small town has one doctor, it is bad. He has to answer every call day or night whether they pay or not.

When a small town has two doctors, it causes jealousy and friction.

When a small town has five doctors, they will get together some evening in one of their offices and form a medical society. That happened a hundred years ago in Youngstown.

In 1812 every able-bodied man in Youngstown, including doctors, picked up his rifle and went to fight the British. There was only one man left in Youngstown.

For many years now doctors have been basking in the warm glow of scarcity. They have been in such great demand that some of them have yielded to a sense of their own importance that they have developed a "prima-donna complex". They have limited the scope of their practice, their working hours and everything except their fees which have become astronomical.

Ohio now has seven medical schools which will soon be pouring out young graduates both male and female. Doctors will be so plentiful that they will be introduced to a new condition which is called "competition". Then they will see some changes made.

OLD TIMER knows what he is talking about. When he entered medicine, doctors were plentiful and competition was keen. Competition is always a good thing for the consumer but sometimes a little difficult for the competitor.

OLD TIMER has been introduced to holistic medicine by reading Cousin's book, "The Anatomy of an Illness." It is *must* reading for all doctors. OLD TIMER will comment on holistic medicine at length at a future date.

—J. L. F.

GLEANINGS FROM THE MEDIA

Seventy-one percent of the physicians in this country are providing free or reduced medical care for patients who have lost their jobs in recent months. According to the AMA Socioeconomic Monitoring System, the physicians are providing this service estimate that 9% of their patients fall into that category. The Mahoning County Medical Society has a program to refer unemployed who have no financial means and who have no personal physician. more than 90% of the Society members are taking care of their own patients, regardless of ability to pay.

The public's trust in various institutions and groups has declined sharply in recent years. Despite the drop, physicians still remain among the most trusted groups in the USA. This has been confirmed by the Kansas City Power and Light Company. The Company was trying to determine what type of person would have the highest degree of credibility in carrying the Company's message to the public. The largest number of those surveyed (38%) said they would consider a physician as "very believable" or "believable." Near the bottom (21%) was a television newscaster. And, rock bottom (13%) was a labor union official.

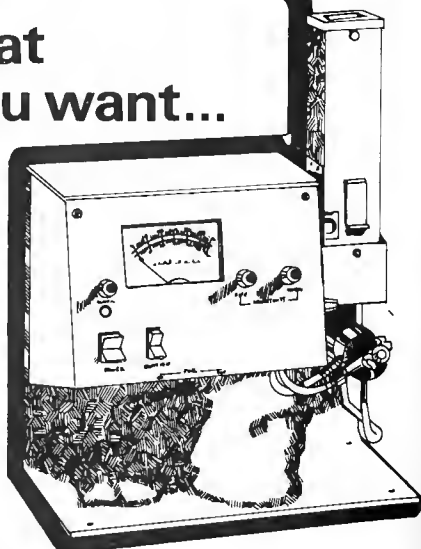
The traditional "normal" American family (wage-earner husband, homemaker wife and two children) apparently is an endangered species. The American Council of Life Insurance reports that only one of 18 households now qualifies for the "normal" label.

Between 1970 and 1980 the number of married couples increased, but the number of married couples with children declined; there are more two-wage earner families now; and an estimated one-fourth of all households are headed by women.

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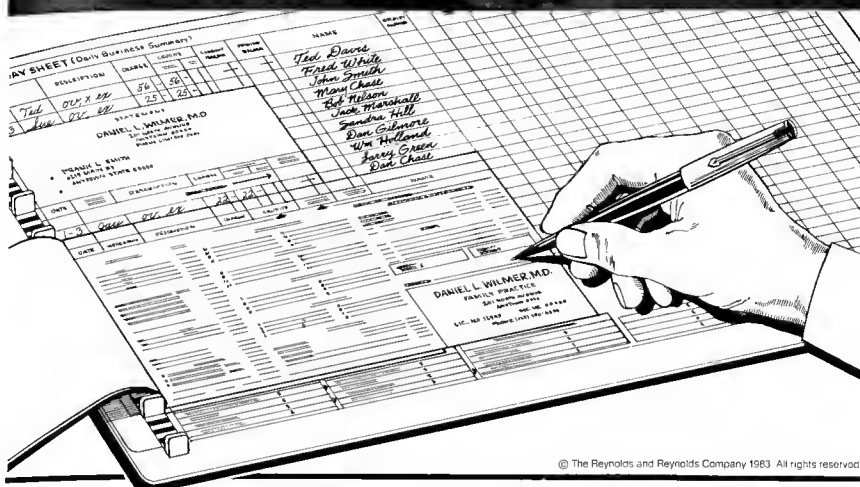
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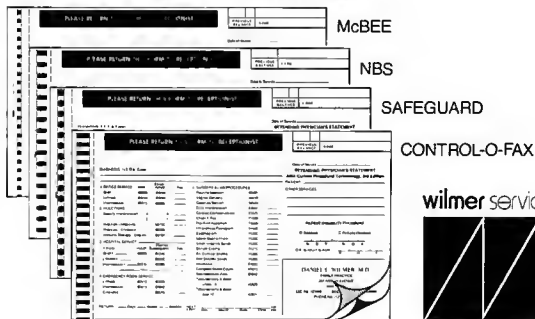
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From the Bulletin

FIFTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1933

Three hundred forty-nine doctors attended the meeting at the Youngstown Club to hear Dr. James Ewing speak on "The Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer".

Seventeen cases of Smallpox and eighteen cases of Syphilis were reported that month in Mahoning County.

Chester Lowendorf became a member of the Society.

FORTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1943

Gasoline was rationed, tires were rationed and food was rationed. A market order to provide food for a diabetic requiring Carbohydrate 150 gm., Protein 70 gm., and Fat 100 gm. per day included fresh vegetable and fruit, milk 4½ quarts, cream 1 pint, butter one-half pound, eggs 1 dozen, meat two pounds, cheese 1¼ pounds and coffee. Cost for the week, \$5.75. This order required extra food points.

Most of the doctors who entered military service early in the war were out of the country. Their letters to the *Bulletin* were not informative, due to censorship. Marinelli, Evans, DeCicco, Kendall and Rogers received promotions. DeCicco said he was in the land of the Kangaroos which made his location easy to guess.

You could buy a new spring suit at McKelvey's for \$39.75 and have it cleaned at Thornton's for a dollar. Manhattan shirts at Strouss-Hirshberg's were \$2.50 and ties \$1.00. Sulfathiazole ointment was a favorite local application for skin infections. You could have your car washed and lubricated while it was parked at the Central Square Garage.

THIRTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1953

There was much talk about the use of gamma globulin in the prevention of poliomyelitis. Widespread publicity was being given to the apparent lowering incidence of polio in exposed children who received it. The supply was limited and the cost high. Doctors were expecting a great demand for it in the coming summer. A committee was appointed to make recommendation on the use of gamma globulin: A. E. Rappoport was chairman and Ivan Smith, co-chairman. L. S. Shensa, E. A. Shorten and C. W. Stertzbach served on the committee.

There were drills, excursions, and alarms in observance of civil defense. The cold war was very hot in Korea and our forces were taking a beating. Our country never lost a war before, so we called it a police action. We blew sirens and rushed out to rendezvous, gave first-aid to simulated casualties and felt pretty satisfied with ourselves.

New members that month were Paul Easton Ruth, James Lee Finley and George L. Altman.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — MAY 1963

The theme of the meeting that month at the Mural Room was "Operation Hometown". It was a review of current legislation affecting medical practice. As usual there was a crisis of government encroachment.

Who remembers the Mural Room? Who remembers the Kerr-Mills program? Chuck Stertzbach explained all about it. It had something to do with Aid for the Aged.

Dave Brown and Louis Bloomberg were taking off in a Piper Cherokee 180 when the motor failed at 500 feet. Louis made a good landing in a field at Shields Road and Lockwood Blvd. The muddy field damaged the landing gear but they walked away unhurt.

They better not try that again because there is a church there now.

Nicholas Garritano was named physician for the parochial schools. George Dietz became a member of the Society.

The health Department reported 68 cases of Chicken Pox, 84 of Measles, and 90 of Mumps. No Polio, no Typhoid, no Smallpox but Gonorrhea and Syphilis were on the rise.

TEN YEARS AGO — MAY 1973

PSRO was still at the top of the roster of concern for the Society. The Medicare Law, H.R. 1, was bringing with it some new approaches to Health Care, along with new acronyms to remember. There was PSRO and HMO. Then came MVHPA, and NEOHCF, and finally MSAHEN and RMP. Everybody's head was spinning, trying to remember what all these letters stood for, but most of them, we were told, spelled bad medicine.

President Ed. Pichette decided it was too soon to ask the members of the Society to vote on PSRO at the May meeting, as originally scheduled. So the vote was delayed until later, to give more time for the members to become better informed on the subject.

Our resident historian, John C. Melnick, M.D. had a lengthy article on another of the pioneer doctors of Youngstown, Dr. Wm. Snow Matthews. Matthews Road in Boardman is named for his family's farm. He studied under Dr. Truesdale (Truesdale Road), also at the University of Michigan and Western Reserve Medical College in Cleveland. His home on Rayen Avenue is now the Newman Club Center of Y.S.U. He was the 4th President of the Medical Society and served two terms.

Dr. Ernest Perry was the speaker for the Seventh Annual Scholarship Dinner at the Ramada Inn. He stressed the need for new and creative thinking, which he called "futurism", in all walks of life. Among those scholars honored were four children of MCMS members: Lynn Baumbblatt, Mark Schreiber, Jacqueline Stechschulte, and Marlene Tandatnick.

Lester's Pharmacy was still advertising three locations and free delivery.

Those were the days!

—Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS OF MUSICIANS

A conference on the medical problems of musicians, sponsored by the Aspen Music Festival, is scheduled for July 27 - August 1 in Aspen, Colorado. Accredited by the Aspen Valley Hospital for up to 20 CME credits, the conference will address two areas of concern: 1) the disabilities of the upper extremities of pianists and string players and 2) the management of stress as related to musical performance.

Speakers are medical personnel as well as artists from the Aspen Music Festival including keynote speaker Harold Schonberg, chief music critic for the New York Times and Pulitzer prize winning author. Attendance fees include a pass to all Music Festival activities and a special sight reading session with Music Director Jorge Mester and the orchestra for those participants with instruments.

For a complete brochure and further information please write the Aspen Music Festival, 1860 Broadway #401, New York, New York 10023.

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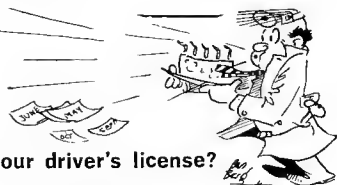
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From the Bulletin

FIFTY YEARS AGO — JUNE 1933

J. U. Buchanan, B. B. McElhaney, J. P. Garvey, E. C. Baker, Sidney McCurdy, M. M. Chambers, Sam Tamarkin, O. D. Hudnut and R. R. Morrall attended the fracture meeting in Cleveland. Buchanan was surgeon for the Republic Steel. McCurdy was the same for the Youngstown Sheet and Tube. McElhaney was our first Orthopedist and Morrall was the second. Baker, Hudnut and Tamarkin were active in x-ray. Harvey was a well-known Internist, but at that time he was surgeon for the U. S. Steel.

Joe Rosenfeld was away studying allergy. John R. Buchanan had an orthopedic residency in Iowa City. Sam Weaver was in New York studying Neurosurgery. Herman Zeve was taking a course in Urology. Henry Osborn was painfully injured when struck by a motorcycle. Rosenfeld came back to be the leading Allergist. Buchanan was a good Orthopedist. Weaver was living in California. Hank Osborne was a fine surgeon. Herman Zeve returned to become director of the VD Clinic after a distinguished career in the Navy and Public Health Service.

FORTY YEARS AGO — JUNE 1943

"God knows I tried hard" wrote Louis Deitchman "to throw out my chest and suck in the hypertrophied embonpoint. My poor viscera cried out 'Give us liberty or give us breath' and after months of torture I discovered that it only made me uncomfortable without adding a whit to my military bearing, so I gave it up as a bad job."

Captain Neidus wrote, "I have been out in the woods and swamps of Mississippi all winter. Thirty-five mile marches with a full pack are common-place. We get up at 6:00 a.m. and are on the go by 7:30. My health has been excellent."

From Harold Reese: "We have a meeting every Tuesday evening. Tonight we are going to hear about Penicillin."

"North Africa is a beautiful country but not for comfort", wrote McElroy, "Cold as hell at night and hot during the day. Everything plenty dirty."

Luke Reed was at Muroc, California, busy discharging men with Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Epilepsy who had been passed by enthusiastic draft boards. Barclay Brandmiller and his Jean motored to his new station at Fort Ord, California, and enjoyed the trip. A. R. Cukerbaum was in San Francisco waiting to shove off somewhere in the Pacific theater; Brack Bowman was transferred to Santa Ana Air Base, California.

Genevieve Delfs and Edwin Brody became new members of the Society. Some of the old members were complaining about the twenty dollar dues.

THIRTY YEARS AGO — JUNE 1953

An impressive list of new members that month: R. L. Tornello, F. M. Lamprich, L. J. Gasser, Alexander Calder, Joseph V. Newsome, Donald R. Bernat, and S. W. Chaisson.

TWENTY YEARS AGO — JUNE 1963

Dr. Stewart Patton, Sr. died at the age of 90. He was a family physician in North Jackson and was active in public health and education. He became Health Commissioner for Mahoning County and President of the Board of Education. His old office has been moved to the Canfield Fairgrounds where it will be preserved as a typical doctor's office in the Pioneer Village.

The state of health in Mahoning County was fairly good. There were 548 births and 251 deaths. There was no polio or smallpox or typhoid fever. Measles, mumps and varicella among the children and gonorrhea were on the rise.

John Buckley became a member. John Rodgers was made President-Elect of the Ohio Heart Association.

TEN YEARS AGO — JUNE 1973

The Medical Auxiliary held the annual President's Ball May 19 at the Youngstown Country Club. It was unique in that the President of the Society and the President of the Auxiliary were Doctor and wife. Dr. Ed Pichette was Society President and his charming wife Eleanor was outgoing President of the Auxiliary. Chairmen for the event were Dr. George Dietz for the Medical Society and Carolyn Turner and Anne Buckley for the Auxiliary.

Dr. Tandatnik submitted a proposal for changing the office of "President-Elect" to "Vice President", in order to permit a President to be elected to a second term if desired. This was passed by Council and is now in effect.

Dr. Vuksta was working on obtaining a grant from a private foundation to initiate a communication system between the local ambulance companies and the hospitals' emergency departments. Dr. Finley and Dr. Bill Bunn were also associated in this undertaking.

New active members that month were Parviz K. Soleimani, M.D., Saquid Syed Husain, M.D. and Abdul Hafiz, M.D. New Associate Member was Jae Loo Lee, M.D. People's Drug Store was advertising hospital and sick-room equipment and supplies, for sale or rent. Council talked about raising the dues, but this was delayed until November.

Robert R. Fisher, M.D.

STATE MEDICAL BOARD ADVISORY

One death has recently been associated with the practice of instilling merthiolate into ears. As far as can be determined, this practice is not widespread but even isolated instances are of concern because of the preparation's toxicity.

In the fatal case recently reported, a physician prescribed merthiolate irrigations for the ears of a child with indwelling tubes. Merthiolate contains thimerosal, an organic mercury compound and sodium borate.

The Medical Board calls to the attention of all physicians the FDA Drug Bulletin of April, 1983, which reminds practitioners that merthiolate is not to be instilled in ear tubes and that the FDA has proposed to prohibit the over-the-counter marketing of topical mercury-containing products for antimicrobial use due to safety concerns and lack of evidence of effectiveness.

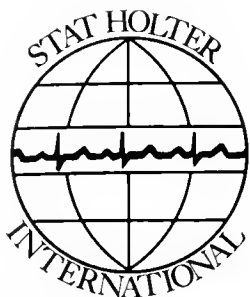
ELIGIBILITY REVIEWS

Under a recent court order, the Social Security Administration will review certain disability claims in Ohio where individuals with mental impairments were either denied disability benefits or terminated from the disability rolls.

Certain individuals who were either denied social security disability benefits or supplemental security income disability benefits or whose disability benefits were terminated on or after March 1, 1981, and before January 4, 1983, who alleged a mental impairment (other than mental retardation) and who were between the ages of 18 and 49, may have their eligibility reviewed.

Physicians with special concerns for the mentally impaired who know of anyone who meets these requirements are urged to advise those persons to contact the local social security office.

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Indications and Usage: Cefaclor* (ceclador, Lilly) is indicated in the treatment of the following infections when caused by susceptible strains of the designated microorganisms:

Lower respiratory infections, including pneumonia caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (Diplococcus pneumoniae), *Haemophilus influenzae*, and *S. pyogenes* (group A beta-hemolytic streptococcus).

Appropriate culture and susceptibility studies should be performed to determine susceptibility of the causative organism to Cefaclor.

Contraindications: Cefaclor is contraindicated in patients with known allergy to the cephalosporin group of antibiotics.

Warnings: IN PENICILLIN-SENSITIVE PATIENTS, CEPHALOSPORIN ANTIBIOTICS SHOULD BE ADMINISTERED CAUTIOUSLY. THERE IS CLINICAL AND LABORATORY EVIDENCE OF PARTIAL CROSS-ALLERGENICITY OF THE CEPHALOSPORINS AND THE PENICILLINS, AND THERE ARE INSTANCES IN WHICH PATIENTS HAVE HAD REACTIONS, INCLUDING ANAPHYLAXIS, TO BOTH DRUG CLASSES.

Antibiotics, including Cefaclor, should be administered cautiously to any patient who has demonstrated some form of allergy, particularly to drugs. Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported with virtually all broad spectrum antibiotics (including macrolides, semisynthetic penicillins, and cephalosporins); therefore, it is important to consider its diagnosis in patients who develop diarrhea in association with the use of antibiotics. Such colitis may range in severity from mild to life threatening. Treatment with broad spectrum antibiotics alters the normal flora of the colon and may permit overgrowth of clostridia. Studies indicate that a toxin produced by *Clostridium difficile* is one primary cause of antibiotic-associated colitis.

Mild cases of pseudomembranous colitis usually respond to drug discontinuance alone. In moderate to severe cases, management should include sigmoidoscopy, appropriate bacteriologic studies, and fluid, electrolyte, and protein supplementation. When the colitis does not improve after the drug has been discontinued, or when it is severe, oral vancomycin is the drug of choice for antibiotic-associated pseudomembranous colitis produced by *C. difficile*. Other causes of colitis should be ruled out.

Precautions: General Precautions—If an allergic reaction to Cefaclor occurs, the drug should be discontinued, and, if necessary, the patient should be treated with antihistamines, epinephrine, and/or corticosteroids.

Prolonged use of Cefaclor may result in the overgrowth of nonsusceptible organisms. Careful observation of the patient is essential. If superinfection occurs during therapy, appropriate measures should be taken.

Positive direct Coombs' tests have been reported during treatment with the cephalosporin antibiotics. In hematologic studies or in intensive cross-matching procedures which antithrombin tests are performed on the minor side or in Coombs' testing of newborns whose mothers have received cephalosporin antibiotics before parturition, it should be recognized that a positive Coombs' test may be due to the drug.

Cefaclor should be administered with caution in the presence of markedly impaired renal function. Under such conditions, careful clinical observation and laboratory studies should be made because safe dosage may be lower than that usually recommended.

As a result of administration of Cefaclor, a false positive reaction for glucose in the urine may occur. This has been observed with Benedict's and Fehling's solutions and also with Clinette® tablets but not with Tes-Tape® (Glucose Enzymatic Test Strips, USP, Lilly).

Broad-spectrum antibiotics should be prescribed with caution in individuals with a history of gastrointestinal disease, particularly colitis.

Usage in Pregnancy—Pregnancy Category B.—Reproduction studies have been performed in mice and rats at doses up to 12 times the human dose and in fetuses given three times the maximum human dose and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to Cefaclor. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers.—Small amounts of Cefaclor have been detected in mother's milk following administration of single 500-mg doses. Average levels were 0.18, 0.20, 0.21, and 0.16 mcg/ml at two, three, four, and five hours respectively. Trace amounts were detected at one hour. The effect on nursing infants is not known. Caution should be exercised when Cefaclor is administered to a nursing woman.

Usage in Children.—Safety and effectiveness of this product for use in infants less than one month of age have not been established.

Adverse Reactions: Adverse effects considered related to therapy with Cefaclor are uncommon and are listed below.

Gastrointestinal symptoms occur in about 2.5 percent of patients and include diarrhea (1 in 70) and nausea and vomiting have been reported rarely.

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported in about 1.5 percent of patients and include pruritus and eruptions (1 in 100), pruritus, urticaria, and positive Coombs' tests each occur in less than 1 in 200 patients. Cases of serum sickness like reactions (erythema multiforme or the above skin manifestations accompanied by arthritis/arthritis and, frequently, fever) have been reported. These reactions are apparently due to hypersensitivity and have usually occurred during or following a second course of therapy with Cefaclor. Such reactions have been reported more frequently in children than adults. Signs and symptoms usually occur a few days after initiation of therapy and subside within a few days after cessation of therapy. No serious sequelae have been reported. Antihistamines and corticosteroids appear to enhance resolution of the syndrome.

Cases of anaphylaxis have been reported, half of which have occurred in patients with a history of penicillin allergy.

Other effects considered related to therapy included eosinophilia (1 in 50 patients) and genital pruritus or vaginitis (less than 1 in 100 patients).

Causal Relationship Uncertain—Transitory abnormalities in clinical laboratory test results have been reported. Although they were of uncertain origin, they are listed below to serve as alerting information for the physician.

Hepatic:—Slight elevations of SGOT, SGPT, or alkaline phosphatase values (1 in 40).

Hematologic:—Transient fluctuations in leukocyte count, predominantly lymphocytes occurring in infants and young children (1 in 40).

Renal:—Slight elevations in BUN or serum creatinine (less than 1 in 500) or abnormal urinalyses (less than 1 in 20).

*Many authorities attribute acute infectious exacerbation of chronic bronchitis to either *S. pneumoniae* or *H. influenzae*.

Note: Cefaclor is contraindicated in patients with known allergy to the cephalosporins and should be given cautiously to penicillin-allergic patients.

Penicillin is the usual drug of choice in the treatment and prevention of streptococcal infections, including the prophylaxis of rheumatic fever. See prescribing information.

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8. Principles and Practice of Infectious Diseases (edited by G. L. Mandell, R. G. Douglas, Jr., and J. E. Bennett), p. 487. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1979.

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or phone: (216) 755-9876

Lyons Physician Supply Co.

704 Youngstown-Poland Rd.
Youngstown, Ohio 44501